

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Mike Aultman is assigned as Incident Commander on the **Buffalo Ranch** Incident. You have full authority and responsibility for managing the fire suppression activities within the framework of law, agency policy, and direction provided in the attached Overhead Briefing Direction and Guidelines.

Your primary responsibility is to organize and direct your allocated resources for efficient and effective suppression of the fire. You are accountable to me or the designated representative listed on the guidelines sheet.

Specific direction for the **Buffalo Ranch** Fire covering management and environmental concerns are listed:

- Provide for firefighter and public safety. This is the primary consideration in all activities. Implement LCES in all planning processes and suppression efforts.
- Ensure that the National Standards for work rest guidelines are adhered to. Ensure no work shift is in excess of 16 hours without prior approval from the Incident Commander.
- Use fire management tactics that are appropriate for resource concerns.
- Ensure standards and items listed in the attached Direction and Guidelines are met.
- Provide a plan for post deployment fire management of the fire by local agencies.
- Coordinate all line construction, helispots, and spike camps with the land type resource advisor(s) during tactical consideration and planning.
- Consult with the Agency Representative before any large scale burnout or backfires are initiated.
- Conduct communication briefings as needed with local units of government apprising them of the fire status and current management efforts. Coordinate fire information with MIFC. Provide accurate information daily to the MIFC fire information office. Maintain regular communications with downwind counties who are affected by drift smoke.
- Insure all costs are commensurate with personnel, public safety and values to be protected and document containment actions. While meeting the overall objectives of this letter, minimize the cost of controlling this fire.
- Inclusion of local personnel and trainees in your team organization and/or in support functions is encouraged.
- Maintain a HIGH level of ethical conduct and foster an atmosphere free of discrimination, sexual harassment, and other forms of inappropriate behavior. No tolerance for any ethical, illegal drug or alcohol related incidents.

William Glesener, NW Region Fire Management Staff will represent me on any occasion that I am not immediately available.


Gregory J. Nelson, Asst. Region Forest Manager

5/13/13
Date

Buffalo Ranch Fire – Overhead Briefing Direction and Guidelines

Incident Name: Buffalo Ranch Fire
Approx. Size 5500 acres by 0800 5/14
Date of Start: May 13, 2013
Resources: Red Lake IA & MN DNR Forestry
General Fire Situation in Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several wildfires over the past day. • Warroad Area Forestry has experienced heavy initial attack over the past day.
Resources Ordered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current resources at the Division level and below assigned will remain. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Private contract engines have been ordered and will be assigned to the fire. ○ Additional Overhead may be assigned. No current outstanding orders for the fire.
Other Organizations Requiring Coordination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNDNR NW Region (including Warroad Area and Baudette Area Forestry) • Red Lake Reservation • U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs • Beltrami County • Marshall County
Financial Considerations/Limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current operations not to exceed \$750,000 without revisions to the Delegation and concurrence with the Region Forest Supervisor.
Fire Behavior Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to BIA/Red Lake Agency briefing.
Weather Situation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Flag conditions anticipated for 5/14/2013.
Fuel Types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open muskeg bog with grass, sedge, moss, brush and areas of ericaceous shrubs. • On the uplands, pine plantations of various ages, natural jack pine stands of various ages, aspen with shrub and leaf litter understory.
Topography: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat peatlands with sandy lenses of upland. • Upper and Lower Red Lake are to the East of the fire.
Fire Behavior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to BIA/Red Lake Agency briefing.
Environmental Constraints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard fire management practices may be considered. • Review Air Operations suppression policies.

Air Operations

Hazards: http://mnics.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Aerial-Obstructions_1to126720_RoseauWarroad.pdf
Air Space Restrictions: Of note is Beaver MOA 30 miles east of fire, has been active most days. See aircraft status report daily. http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/bujan/tropertfarcia.html
Airports, Heliports, Helispots: Warroad- SEAT Base and Air Attack have based here. Hibbing and Bemidji have been bases for the CL215 and Type 1 tankers. Helibases in Thief River Falls and Grygla.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Glesener, NW Region Fire Spec. (218)308-2364 / (218)244-3675
<p>Suppression Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety of the public and all fire personnel. Full reconnaissance of the fire and surrounding values at risk. Continue suppression activities to protect travel corridors and private assets located in the vicinity. Commercial timberlands are affected and should be considered in suppression activities.
<p>Resource Advisors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Lake Reservation – Chuck Krukewitt (218)322-2513 LUP Lands – Gretchen Mehmel (218)783-6861 Forestry/Other – Gary Johnson (218)425-7793
<p>News Media and Incident Information Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate releases through Jean Goad or staff PIO designee at MIFC.
<p>Training Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of local personnel and trainees in your team organization and/or in support functions is encouraged. DNR Training Coordinator, Todd Manley (218)327-4570
<p>Interagency/Private Property Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lands involved include scattered private, tribal, and LUP (wildlife administered) lands. All suppression cost and responsibility lies with the MNDNR Division of Forestry outside of the main Reservation boundary.
<p>Mop up Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mop up to 100% to a width of 5 chains on all upland portions of the perimeter.
<p>Rehabilitation standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore all ditch crossings to pre-fire elevations and shape to permit water flow.
<p>Initial Attack Responsibility and Support to Other Incidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests may occur but only after mutual agreement by the Agency Administrator or Representative and the Incident Commander.
<p>Disposition of Unit Resources on the Incident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources mobilized for the project fire will remain on the incident. It is expected that the team will strive to replace local Initial Attack resources with contract equipment as soon as practical.
<p>Close-out and Debriefing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The closeout and debriefing will be held upon agreement by the Agency and Incident Commander or when the objectives in the delegation have been met.
<p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fires produce more smoke which limit visibility and have detrimental effects on personnel. Visibility can be reduced over large areas. Other Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy Equipment; Snags & Hazard Trees; Limited Communications; ATV's
<p>Agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNICS Agreements can be found at http://mnics.org <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperative fire agreement between the BIA, DNR, and Red Lake Tribe. Bemidji Air Base Coop Agreement. MN Ontario Border Agreement. GLFFC Agreement MNICS Agreement